

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HARTMAN

1. GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS CALLED FEBRUARY 13 ON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN TO PRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT'S
REACTION TO THE TURKISH-CYPRIOT DECLARATION OF A SEPARATE
STATE. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN WAS ALSO
PRESENT.

2. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID THIS UNILATERAL DECLARATION, MADE
BEFORE ANY EXAMINATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE GREEK PROPOSAL,
PROVES THE TURKS NEVER INTENDED TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY
AND THAT PARTITION AND "TURKIFICATION" OF NORTHERN CYPRUS
WAS ALWAYS THEIR OBJECTIVE. ALEXANDRAKIS ALSO SUGGESTED
THAT THE GREEK SIDE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE EQUAL STATUS OF
THE TWO COMMUNITIES IN A FEDERAL CYPRUS GOVERNMENT.

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3. ALEXANDRAKIS COMPLAINED THAT THE US REACTION TO THE DECLARATION WAS MERELY "TO REGRET", WHEREAS THE BRITISH SPECIFIED THAT THE GOC WAS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT AND THAT DENKTASH WAS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS, ADDING THAT GREECE AND CYPRUS WERE NOW REFERRING THE MATTER TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. THE GREEK AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS RELUCTANT TO TAKE THE MATTER TO THE UNSC BUT FELT IT HAD LITTLE CHOICE.

4. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN EMPHASIZED THAT, WHEN THE US GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES ITS REGRET, IT IS IN FACT TAKING SHARP ISSUE WITH A DEVELOPMENT. MR. HARTMAN SAID WE DEPLORE THIS UNILATERAL TURKISH STEP WHICH DOES NOT HELP THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, BUT WE HOPE THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WITHDRAW FROM THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE.

5. MR. HARTMAN THEN RAISED THE PROBLEM OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AID CUTOFF TO TURKEY, POINTING OUT THAT THIS HAD MADE BOTH SIDES RELUCTANT TO MOVE TOWARD AGREEMENT IN THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. THE TURKS DID NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO BE MAKING CONCESSIONS UNDER PRESSURE AND THE GREEK-CYPRIOIS WANTED TO ASSURE AN AID CUTOFF BY AVOIDING ANY AGREEMENT. WE NOW HAD, MR. HARTMAN ADDED, A DOWNWARD SPIRALING SITUATION.

6. THE GREEK AMBASSADOR THOUGHT THAT, AFTER TWO OR THREE MONTHS, THE TURKISH MILITARY WILL BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ARMS FLOW AND PERHAPS MAKE CONCESSIONS, BUT MR. HARTMAN POINTED OUT THAT ANALYSIS PRESUMES THAT THE TURKS CANNOT OBTAIN ARMS ELSEWHERE. ALEXANDRAKIS CONCLUDED BY AGREEING THE SITUATION WAS DETERIORATING, ADDING THAT THE CYPRUS PROBLEM HAD TO BE VIEWED IN THE WIDER CONTEXT OF HOW THE WEST AND THE ALLIANCE IS TO COPE WITH EXPANSIONISM AND AGGRESSION. INGERSOLL

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